

### ***With Jesus in the school of prayer...***

The past years of encouraging prayer warriors has shown us the deep need to be rooted and grounded in Christ Himself – in everything — and certainly in prayer. We’ve seen too much human effort in prayer. Prayer may be work, but it is His work. It is the prayer life of Christ in us – empowered by the Spirit. We find it peculiar that even the best of prayer leaders and the best of books on prayer frequently assume the foundation of life in Christ but don’t actually lay that foundation. It would be great if all believers were really rooted in Christ, His person, His redemption, and His present ministry of intercession. But such may not be the case.

I sometimes wonder if the gospel of Jesus Christ is actually preached in many pulpits. When life gets tough, too many of us have trouble finding the Rock to stand on. It should not be so. It is why believers need to be well grounded in the "scarlet thread" of the Bible, the great story of our redemption in Christ, the grand and glorious theme that goes from Genesis to Revelation. The name and blood of Jesus need to be more than familiar concepts. They must be more real to us than anything else that exists!

The foundation for faith and prayer is in our hidden life WITH Christ, and IN Christ. It is being rooted in Him, and He rooted in us. That’s what makes the difference. God never intended for us to try to produce anything of ourselves – including prayer. We don’t have a prayer life of our own. We have nothing apart from Him. To abide in Him, and He in us...is everything. It is the prayer life of Christ Himself inside of us. Are we not “in Christ” and “Christ in us”?

All that He accomplished in His sacrifice has now moved on into His heavenly life, where He lives “forever to make intercession”. The life of Christ IS prayer life. It takes up all His time in heaven, and it is His life inside of us. It is His constant and permanent ministry. To know Him is to be a praying Christian. Everything else comes from that prayer fountain.

The result of such Christ-life is to be able to put into practice what Jesus taught on prayer. It is the kind of prayer life Jesus lived Himself and taught so simply. We need to be with Christ in His school of prayer. No greater promises exist than the ones that Jesus declared about prayer. “Ask and you shall receive...” “Ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you...” “Ask and you shall receive, that your joy may be full...” No clearer lessons are there than Christ’s lessons on prayer. And no more important activity could there be than prayer for the Body of Christ. How could there be if Jesus Himself, the Head of the Body, is “living forever to make intercession”?

His intercession is not only in heaven, for Christ is within us. His prayer life flows through us by the Holy Spirit and back to the Father. This prayer life is the life of the New Covenant. It is the life “hidden with Christ in God”. If the Church were involved as she ought to be with Christ in His intercession, the world would certainly be a better place! There would be more miracles, and more of “His will being done on earth as it is in heaven”!

Two things are needed for a good foundation in prayer:

- 1) ...to know by revelation the "finished" work of Christ in His great redemption.
- 2) ...to participate in His “unfinished” work -- His unceasing intercessory life, empowered by the Holy Spirit. It is Christ's intercession, as mediator of the New Covenant, that brings down into human experience the heavenly benefits and victories won by His redemption.

The world has yet to see the Church standing fully in her appointed place of prayer, being the body of the One who always lives to make intercession. When we “grow up into the Head” (Ephesians 4) will we not be with Him in the place of prayer – where He is?